



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Health and Recovery Services Administration  
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Olympia, WA 98504-5530

September 29, 2009

Dear Stakeholders:

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is expanding the General Assistance – Unemployable (GA-U) managed care medical program statewide on November 1, 2009. Community Health Plan (CHP) is the managed care organization that will be providing services for GA-U members through their network of community health clinics and community mental health clinics. Additionally, mental health benefits have been added to the benefit design to allow persons with short-term impairments to access the necessary treatment(s) to return to work, or support gathering the documentation necessary to demonstrate the need for longer term disability coverage. Currently, most GA-U recipients may access medical services from any provider who will accept their Medical ID Card (also known as an Open Coupon or MAID). This type of delivery system is known as Fee-for-Service (FFS).

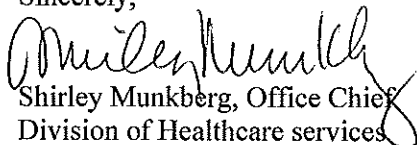
With the managed care expansion, all GA-U recipients will receive their medical benefits through Community Health Plan. While GA-U managed care will be a mandatory program, there are some exceptions on who will be enrolled into managed care.

1. Recipients who reside in a long-term care in a nursing facility will be exempt from mandatory managed care.
2. Legal immigrants will be exempt from mandatory managed care. Legal immigrants will be added to the mandatory enrollment process by 2011.
3. American Indians/Alaskan Natives (AI/AN) will be exempt from mandatory managed care. American Indians/Alaskan Natives may choose to enroll with Community Health Plan.
4. GA-U recipients participating in chemical dependency treatment from the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act (ADATSA) are exempt from mandatory managed care. These individuals will continue to receive medical benefits through FFS while participating in chemical dependency treatment, and will be enrolled into the managed care program when their treatment ends.
5. Most aged, blind and/or disabled GA-U recipients will be exempt from mandatory managed care.

Community Health Plan will provide both medical and mental health benefits to enrollees. Medical Care Services provided through the FFS delivery system does not provide mental health benefits.

For more information on the statewide expansion, please contact Becky McAninch-Dake at [mcanibj@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:mcanibj@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



Shirley Munkberg, Office Chief  
Division of Healthcare services

Office of Quality and Care Management